

South Carolina Military Family Relief Fund

Questions & Answers

What is the South Carolina Military Family Relief Fund (SCMFRF)?

The South Carolina Military Family Relief Fund is patterned after an idea that was championed by Illinois Lieutenant Governor Patrick Quinn in Illinois.

The fund provides monetary grants to families of South Carolina National Guard members and South Carolina residents serving in the United States Armed Forces Reserve components who were called to active duty as a result of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks.

Lieutenant Governor Bauer met Lieutenant Governor Quinn at a National Lieutenant Governor's Association meeting and they discussed this particular project in Illinois. Lieutenant Governor Bauer met with Adjutant General Stan Spears to discuss the idea. General Spears enthusiastically endorsed the idea. Senator John Courson is the lead sponsor for our state's legislation in the State Senate.

What are the South Carolina Military Family Relief Fund grants used for?

These grants are intended to help families defray costs of food, housing, utilities, medical services and other expenses that become difficult to afford when a wage-earner has temporarily left civilian employment to be placed on active military duty.

How will the grants be funded?

The bill, sponsored by Senator Courson, calls for South Carolinians to be able to donate to the fund through a voluntary check-off on South Carolina individual income tax forms. Additionally, businesses and individuals can contribute directly to the fund. Any contributions are tax-deductible.

What types of grants are available?

There are three types of available grants: (1) status-based grant; (2) need-based grant and (3) casualty based grant.

How much are each of these grants worth?

The legislation provides that the grants are worth \$500 for a status-based grant, up to \$2,000 for a need-based grant and \$1,000 for a casualty-based grant.

What are the eligibility requirements for a status-based grant?

You are eligible for a status-based grant if:

- Grant applicant is member of the South Carolina National Guard or a South Carolina resident serving in a United States Armed Forces Reserve component, or is a family member of the Guardsman/Reservist and is enrolled in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS);
- Military member was/is on active duty for a minimum of 30 days as a result of 9/11/01;
- Military member holds a pay grade no higher than 0-3 or W-2.

What are the eligibility requirements for a need-based grant?

You are eligible for a need-based grant if:

- Grant applicant is member of the South Carolina National Guard or a South Carolina resident serving in a United States Armed Forces Reserve component, or is a family member of the Guardsman/Reservist and is enrolled in DEERS;
- Military member was/is on active duty for a minimum of 30 days as a result of 9/11/01;
- Military member holds a pay grade no higher than 0-3 or W-2;
- Military salary (including BAH) is at least 30% less than civilian salary;
- Financial assistance needed for clothing, food, rent/mortgage, utilities, medical services/prescriptions, insurance or vehicle payments.

What are the requirements for the casualty-based grant?

You are eligible for the casualty-based grant if:

- Grant applicant is member of the South Carolina National Guard or a South Carolina resident serving in a United States Armed Forces Reserve component, or is a family member of the Guardsman/Reservist and is enrolled in DEERS;
- Military member was/is on active duty for a minimum of thirty days as a result of 9/11/01;
- Military member holds a pay grade no higher than 0-3 or W-2;
- Military member incurred a service-connected injury, illness, death or is MIA/POW.